

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Weekly, Monthly, Annually.  
*Total Burden Hours:* 5,421.

### Food and Nutrition Service

*Title:* FSP-State Agency Options.  
*OMB Control Number:* 0584-New.  
*Summary of Collection:* The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) establishes a program whereby needy households apply for and receive food stamp benefits. It specifies national eligibility standards but allows State agencies certain options in administering the program. These options relate to establishing a homeless shelter deduction; establishing, periodically reviewing, and updating standard utility allowances to be used in excess shelter cost computation; and establishing a methodology for offsetting costs of producing self-employment income. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information from State agencies on the methods used to calculate these deductions and allowances.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FNS will collect information from State agencies on how the various Food Stamp Program implementation options will be determined. The information collected will be used by FNS to establish quality control reviews, standards, and self-employment costs.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 49.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.  
*Total Burden Hours:* 296.

**Nancy B. Sternberg,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-13473 Filed 5-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

#### Federal Subcontracting Forum, Workshop and Opportunities Fair

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold a Federal Subcontracting Forum, Workshop and Opportunities Fair on Wednesday, June 23, 1999, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in

the Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9501. The morning session, which will consist of presentation topics from featured guest speakers and the conduct of the workshop, will be held in Room 107-A from 9 AM to 12 Noon. The subcontracting opportunities fair will take place in the afternoon in the Patio of the building from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. Attendance at the morning session is open to large business concerns and non-profit organizations. Small business concerns are invited to participate in the afternoon session. Presentation topics include the Office of Federal Procurement Policy's (OFPP) Initiatives Relating to the Small Business Program including the new OFPP Policy Letters on Goaling and Subcontracting; the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Role in 2 Subcontracting and the Future of Subcontracting; the Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) Reform—Interim Rules Published by the Federal Acquisition Regulation Council; the SDB Procurement Mechanisms including the Subcontracting Evaluation Factor for SDB Participation & Monetary Subcontracting Incentives; Reporting Requirements—including the new (supplemental) SDB Reports; the new Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Subcontracting Goal; the Role of the Commercial Market Representative; An Update on SBA's Procurement Marketing and Access Network (PRO-Net) System; and An Update on the USDA Subcontracting Program. Among the guest speakers will be Linda Williams, Associate Deputy Administrator for the OFPP, and Robert C. Taylor, Manager of the Federal Subcontracting Program at the SBA. Confidential and proprietary information will not be discussed. A number of large business concerns and non-profit organizations will be represented at the opportunities fair to discuss upcoming subcontracting opportunities. Seating at the forum/workshop is limited, and reservations are required. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

**DATES:** Reservations must be made by June 15, 1999 (fax or e-mail only).

**ADDRESSES:** Confirm by facsimile at (202) 720-3001. Confirm by e-mail at janet.baylor@usda.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Loretta D'Amico, USDA/OSDBU, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, AG STOP 9501, Washington, DC 20250-9501, telephone: (202) 720-7117, or visit the OSDBU Home Page on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/da/smallbus.html](http://www.usda.gov/da/smallbus.html) under the What's New Section. If you need

special accommodations to participate in the event, please notify Loretta D'Amico by June 15 at (202) 720-7117 (v) or through the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 (voice/tdd).

**Sharron L. Harris,**

*Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.*

[FR Doc. 99-13441 Filed 5-26-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-002-2]

#### University of Saskatchewan; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Flax Genetically Engineered for Tolerance to Soil Residues of Sulfonylurea Herbicides

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public of our determination that the University of Saskatchewan's flax line designated as CDC Triffid, which has been genetically engineered for tolerance to soil residues of sulfonylurea herbicides, is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by the University of Saskatchewan in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status and our analysis of other scientific data. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact and the petition may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. James White, Biotechnology and Biological Analysis, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Suite 5B05, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-

5940. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-4885; e-mail: kay.peterson@usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On December 1, 1998, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 98-335-01p) from the Crop Development Centre (CDC) of the University of Saskatchewan (CDC/Saskatchewan) of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, seeking a determination that a flax (*Linum usitatissimum* L.) line designated as CDC Triffid, which has been genetically engineered for tolerance to residues of sulfonylurea herbicides in soil, does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On March 4, 1999, APHIS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 10442-10443, Docket No. 99-002-1) announcing that the CDC/Saskatchewan petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject flax line and food products derived from it. In the notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether the CDC Triffid flax line posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before May 3, 1999. APHIS received no comments on the subject petition during the designated 60-day comment period.

**Analysis**

The CDC Triffid flax line has been genetically engineered to contain a modified acetolactate synthase (*als*) gene derived from *Arabidopsis thaliana*. The *als* gene encodes a modified acetolactate synthase enzyme that extends to root tissues the reported natural ability of flax to withstand sulfonylurea herbicides. The subject flax line also contains and expresses the nopaline synthase (*nos*) gene derived from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and the neomycin phosphotransferase-II (*nptII*) gene derived from *Escherichia coli*. The *nos* and *nptII* genes were used as selectable markers during the plant transformation process. Expression of the added genes is controlled in part by gene sequences from the plant pathogen *A. tumefaciens*, and the *A. tumefaciens* method was used to transfer the added genes into the parental Norlin commercial flax variety.

The CDC Triffid flax line has been considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences derived from a plant pathogen. However, evaluation of data from field tests and site monitoring conducted in Canada indicates that there were no deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of the environmental release of the CDC Triffid flax line.

**Determination**

Based on its analysis of the data submitted by CDC/Saskatchewan and a review of other scientific data and field tests of the subject flax line, APHIS has determined that the CDC Triffid flax line: (1) Exhibits no plant pathogenic properties; (2) is no more likely to become a weed than flax varieties developed by traditional plant breeding; (3) is unlikely to increase the weediness potential for any sexually compatible cultivated or wild species; (4) will not harm nontarget organisms, including threatened or endangered species or organisms that are recognized as beneficial to the agricultural ecosystem; and (5) will not cause damage to raw or processed agricultural commodities. Therefore, APHIS has concluded that the subject flax line and any progeny derived from hybrid crosses with other flax varieties will be as safe to grow as flax in traditional breeding programs that is not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340.

The effect of this determination is that CDC/Saskatchewan's CDC Triffid flax line is no longer considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the subject flax line or its progeny. However, importation of the CDC Triffid flax line or seeds capable of propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

**National Environmental Policy Act**

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). Based on that EA, APHIS has

reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that CDC/Saskatchewan's CDC Triffid flax line and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of May 1999.

**Craig A. Reed,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-13515 Filed 5-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Frank Church-River of No Return, Wilderness, ID**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SEIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service is in the process of developing a plan for future management of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONRW). Review of the comments received on the Frank Church-River of No Return Draft Environmental Impact Statement has led the Forest Service to revise management direction, which will be accomplished by issuing two additional NEPA documents to the public. The Forest Service will prepare a site specific analysis for noxious weed control through a separate finalized EIS. A supplemental draft EIS will be prepared analyzing six new alternatives along with new information. The final EIS will be responsive to comments received on both the draft and supplemental draft EIS.

**DATES:** The supplemental draft EIS is expected to be available for public review and comment in mid Summer, 1999. Once the Supplemental draft is released, public comment will be accepted through December 1, 1999. The Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team will analyze the comments on the supplemental draft EIS and prepare a final EIS. The final EIS is expected to be available in the Fall of 2000 and a record of decision (ROD) will be signed shortly thereafter. The final EIS for site specific Noxious Weed Control and ROD will be released in mid Summer 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Wotring, Coordinator, FC-RONRW, RR2 Box 600, Hwy 93 S, Salmon, ID 83467, telephone 208-756-5131.